

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES IN UTAH: SECOND QUARTER 2005

Utah County records fastest wage growth; Salt Lake County has highest wage

In the second quarter of 2005 the average weekly wage in Utah County rose by 3.8 percent over the year, the largest increase in Utah among those counties and independent cities with employment of 75,000 or more, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while Utah County recorded the fastest wage growth, it did not exceed the national rate of 3.9 percent. Salt Lake County had the highest average weekly wage level in Utah at \$688; even so, the level did not surpass the national average of \$751. Though none of the State's four large counties had wage growth or wage levels exceeding the U.S. average, Utah County's wage growth did surpass the statewide average of 3.2 percent and Salt Lake County's wage was above the State's overall level of \$622. (See table A.)

Table A. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Utah, second quarter 2005(2)

Area	Employment	Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2005 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, second quarter 2004-05 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	132,808.3	\$751	--	3.9	--
Utah	1,120.9	622	37	3.2	41
Davis, Utah	97.8	600	293	1.7	282
Salt Lake, Utah	539.7	688	186	2.5	243
Utah, Utah	156.8	570	310	3.8	144
Weber, Utah	89.0	564	311	2.4	247

(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

(2) Data are preliminary.

(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(4) Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(5) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(6) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Average Weekly Wages in Utah, Second Quarter 2005 (continued)

Wage levels

None of Utah's four largest counties recorded average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2005 that were in the top half of the national ranking. Salt Lake County's average weekly wage of \$688 was 8.4 percent below the U. S. average, ranking 186th among the 322 largest counties in the nation. The remaining three counties in the State had wages that ranked in the bottom 10 percent nationwide, with Davis County averaging \$600 (293rd), Utah, \$570 (310th), and Weber, \$564 (311th).

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average of \$751 in 116 of the 322 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2005. New York County, N.Y., was the highest-paid among the large counties, with an average weekly wage of \$1,350. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,316, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,267); Arlington, Va. (\$1,257); and Washington, D.C. (\$1,236). Three of the 10 counties with the highest wages in the U.S. were located in the greater New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y.; Fairfield, Conn.; and Somerset, N.J.), three others were located in or around the San Francisco area (Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco, all in California), while three more were located in or around the Washington D.C. metropolitan area (Arlington, Va.; Washington, D.C.; and Fairfax, Va.). Rounding out the top 10 was Suffolk County, Mass., part of the Boston metropolitan area.

The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$463), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$473); Horry, S.C. (\$499); Yakima, Wash. (\$509); and Tulare, Calif. (\$532). The average weekly wage in the lowest-paid county, Cameron, was slightly more than one-third the wage in the highest-paid county, New York.

At the state level, Utah's average weekly wage of \$622 was 17.2 percent below the national average, ranking 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 1.) Three neighboring states ranked higher than Utah -- Colorado (\$769/11th), Nevada (\$738/17th), and Arizona (\$723/20th); two others fell below -- Wyoming (\$616/39th) and Idaho (\$574/47th).

Over-the-year wage changes

Wage growth in only one of Utah's four large counties ranked in the top half of the national standings. Utah County's 3.8-percent growth was close to the national average of 3.9 percent, and ranked 144th in the nation. Wage gains in the other three large counties fell into the bottom third of the ranking. Salt Lake County averaged 2.5 percent (243rd) wage growth over the year, Weber, 2.4 percent (247th), and Davis, 1.7 percent (282nd). At the state level, the average weekly wage in Utah grew 3.2 percent from the second quarter of 2004 to the second quarter of 2005, placing the State 41st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Among the 322 largest counties, Webb, Texas, led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 11.3 percent over the year. San Mateo, Calif., was second with 10.6-percent growth, followed by the counties of Clark, Nev. (9.4 percent); Collier, Fla. (8.4 percent); and Fairfax, Va., (8.1 percent). Six counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Pierce County, Wash., had the largest decrease, -7.9 percent, followed by the counties of Clayton, Ga. (-6.3 percent); Rock Island, Ill. (-2.9 percent); Spartanburg, S.C. (-2.3 percent); Trumbull, Ohio (-1.3 percent); and San Luis Obispo, Calif. (-0.2 percent).

Average Weekly Wages in Utah, Second Quarter 2005 (continued)

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from reports submitted by employers subject to state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 8.6 million employer reports cover 132.8 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage is computed by dividing the total quarterly payroll of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. This number then is divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Note below) and will not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

Additional statistics and other information

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2004 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the fourth quarter 2004 version of this news release. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2004* is now available for sale from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250, telephone 866-512-1800, outside Washington, D.C. Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is 202-512-1800. The fax number is 202-512-2104. Also, the 2004 bulletin is available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn04.htm>.

QCEW-based news releases issued by other regional offices have been placed at one convenient BLS Web site location, <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Kansas City Information Office at 816-426-2481 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

NOTE

QCEW data are the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. For this reason, county and industry data are not designed to be used as a time series.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. The potential differences result from several causes. Differences between BLS and State published data may be due to the continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Average Weekly Wages in Utah, Second Quarter (continued)

Table 1. Covered (1) employment and wages by state, second quarter 2005(2)

State	Employment	Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2005 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2004-05	National ranking by percent change
United States (4).....	132,808.3	\$751	-	3.9	-
Alabama.....	1,900.6	644	33	3.9	24
Alaska.....	315.1	759	15	3.3	39
Arizona.....	2,429.7	723	20	4.3	11
Arkansas.....	1,158.2	592	46	4.2	13
California.....	15,387.2	849	6	3.5	30
Colorado.....	2,215.9	769	11	3.4	31
Connecticut.....	1,676.5	946	2	4.3	11
Delaware.....	421.3	797	9	3.1	42
District of Columbia.....	675.1	1,236	1	4.1	15
Florida.....	7,656.1	689	24	5.2	3
Georgia.....	3,937.6	722	21	3.1	42
Hawaii.....	605.9	678	26	4.0	23
Idaho.....	628.5	574	47	3.4	31
Illinois.....	5,816.8	803	8	4.2	13
Indiana.....	2,889.9	664	30	2.8	46
Iowa.....	1,475.0	614	41	3.9	24
Kansas.....	1,323.6	636	35	4.6	7
Kentucky.....	1,772.9	651	32	3.8	27
Louisiana.....	1,909.2	616	39	4.1	15
Maine.....	610.7	609	43	3.7	29
Maryland.....	2,527.3	818	7	4.1	15
Massachusetts.....	3,219.6	916	3	2.1	50
Michigan.....	4,366.7	768	12	3.4	31
Minnesota.....	2,664.7	760	14	2.3	49
Mississippi.....	1,117.3	556	49	4.1	15
Missouri.....	2,702.2	678	26	4.1	15
Montana.....	424.9	553	50	4.7	6
Nebraska.....	905.4	598	44	3.3	39
Nevada.....	1,220.7	738	17	7.7	1
New Hampshire.....	631.7	754	16	5.2	3
New Jersey.....	4,012.7	901	5	3.4	31
New Mexico.....	784.8	624	36	4.5	8
New York.....	8,471.1	913	4	4.1	15
North Carolina.....	3,855.7	665	29	4.1	15
North Dakota.....	333.2	561	48	4.1	15
Ohio.....	5,376.0	693	23	3.1	42
Oklahoma.....	1,465.3	594	45	2.8	46
Oregon.....	1,683.2	687	25	2.5	48
Pennsylvania.....	5,620.2	737	19	3.8	27
Rhode Island.....	487.7	720	22	3.4	31
South Carolina.....	1,823.5	621	38	4.4	10
South Dakota.....	387.4	543	51	3.4	31
Tennessee.....	2,695.7	670	28	3.4	31
Texas.....	9,592.4	738	17	4.5	8
Utah.....	1,120.9	622	37	3.2	41
Vermont.....	304.1	644	33	1.6	51
Virginia.....	3,618.9	787	10	5.5	2
Washington.....	2,825.2	761	13	3.4	31
West Virginia.....	703.0	612	42	3.9	24
Wisconsin.....	2,794.2	663	31	3.1	42
Wyoming.....	267.0	616	39	5.1	5
Puerto Rico.....	1,039.3	418	(5)	2.7	(5)
Virgin Islands.....	44.3	639	(5)	3.7	(5)

(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

(2) Data are preliminary.

(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(5) Data not included in the national ranking.